News Releases - 2007

German political scientist Arthur Benz awarded John G. Diefenbaker Award to work at Carleton University

Ottawa, April 26, 2007 – A prominent German scholar is coming to Canada to further his research on federalism. Arthur Benz, Chair of Political Science at the University of Hagen, has been awarded this year's John G. Diefenbaker Award by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Dr. Benz will spend up to a year at Carleton University in Ottawa, working with the Department of Political Science and the Institute of European and Russian Studies. He will advance his analysis of the case of federalism in Canada to contribute to his larger comparative study of constitutional reform in several different federations such as Germany and the European Union. In addition, Dr. Benz plans to teach a formal course during the second term of his stay in order to provide regular structured contacts with students. Dr. Benz will also participate in the University's speaker series and in various seminars and collaborate with colleagues from Queen's University, Université du Québec à Montréal and McGill University among others.

"Dr. Benz has an outstanding record of research and publication in the area of study of federalism", wrote Laura Macdonald, Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at Carleton University, in her letter of support for Dr. Benz's nomination. "I believe that his comparative perspective and his methodological strengths mean that his study will contribute considerably to the study of federalism in general, as well as the case of Canada in particular." The co-nominator, Joan DeBardeleben, Director of the Institute of European and Russian Studies said: "Dr. Benz's expertise and work on comparative federalism will enrich both the teaching and the research environments, and his presence will provide our students with the opportunity to expand their knowledge on federalism."

Established in 1991, the John G. Diefenbaker Award is an annual award honouring the memory of former Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker. It enables a scholar who is a German citizen to spend up to 12 months in Canada to pursue research in the social sciences and humanities. Candidates must be nominated by a university department or research institute in Canada. The value of the award is up to $75,000 provided by the Canada Council for the Arts, plus a travel allowance of up to $20,000 provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Funded by an endowment of approximately $2 million from the Government of Canada, the award is administered by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Arthur Benz

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Arthur Benz's career is focused on political science, administrative science and social sciences. Before accepting the chair of political science at the University of Hagen, he taught at the Universities of Konstanz and Halle-Wittenberg. Between 1990-1991, he worked as a Visiting Researcher at the renowned Max-Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne, where he co-operated with Fritz W. Scharpf. Since 1995, he has received several grants to further his research in various fields such as *National Parliaments in European Union* (2001-03) and *Accountability in Multilevel Governance* (with Yannis Papadopoulos, 2004-06). Dr. Benz has published nine books, has co-edited 10 books, and has published 29 refereed journal articles and 48 book chapters.

Federalism, governance and policy making are at the centre of most of his publications. Dr. Benz's in-depth analysis of the different national political systems provides insights and exposes the challenges that come with federalism. His extensive research allows him to revisit numerous assumptions and bring new arguments and perspectives on the countries' governments. Among his publications are *Horizontale Politikverflechtung* (Horizontal Joint Policy-Making, 1992) with Fritz W. Scharpf and Reinhard Zintl); *Der moderne Staat* (The Modern State, 2001, Spanish translation 2007), *Föderalismus* (Federalism 2002) edited with Gerhard Lehmbruch, and *Governance and Democracy* (2006), edited with Yannis Papadopoulos. In several articles, published in *Publius*, *West European Politics* or *Federal and Regional Studies*, he has contributed to empirical and theoretical research on federalism and multilevel governance.

Dr. Benz is a member of the executive committee of the Institute for European Constitutional Sciences at the University of Hagen; he is also a member of the International Political Science Association and the German Political Science Association, among others. Between November 2003 and December 2004, he participated as an expert in a Joint Commission of the German Federal Parliament (Bundestag) and the Federal Council (Bundesrat) preparing the constitutional reform of German federalism which came into force in September 2006. Since 2000 he has worked as one of the four elected reviewers representing political science in the German Research Foundation.

General information

In 2007, the Canada Council for the Arts is celebrating its 50th anniversary. In addition to its principal role of promoting and fostering the arts in Canada, the Council administers and awards prizes and fellowships to over 150 artists and scholars annually in the arts, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, health sciences and engineering. Among these are the Killam Prizes, the Killam Research Fellowships, the Molson Prizes, the Governor General's Literary Awards, the Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts and the Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts.

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